

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information recording medium which includes a user data area and a medium management information area and allows update of information, comprising:

5 an alternative area for the area including a defect on said information recording medium detected when information is recorded or reproduced; and

a management area for management of correspondence between said area including defect and said alternative area,

wherein the information for identifying the allowable number of times of recording of information is previously recorded on the recording medium.

2. An information recording/reproducing medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein said user data, medium management information, alternative area and management area conform to the DVD-RAM format and said management area is the secondary defect list (SDL).

3. An information recording control method for conducting recording and reproduction of information to an information recording medium having a user data area, an alternative area for the defective area and a medium management information area to execute the update of information, wherein information for identifying said ¹¹²⁽²⁾ allowable number of times of recording of information is previously recorded to said information recording medium, if a defect on said information recording medium is
25 detected during recording or reproduction of information, the

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information indicating the alternative area to said area^{N/A}
 including the defect is recorded to said medium management
 information area, and when the recordings to at least said medium^{N/A}
 management information area exceed the allowable number of times
 5 of recording based on said information for identifying the
 allowable number of times of recording, the recording is
 controlled.

4. An information recording control method as claimed in
 claim 3, wherein the information update count is recorded to
 said medium management information area and the update of
 information to said medium management information area is
 controlled by comparing said update count and said allowable
 number of times of recording.

5. An information recording control method as claimed in
 claim 4, wherein the recording to said medium management
 information area is continued when said medium management
 information area is recorded in multiple on the two or more areas
 and recording is completed normally to the two or more
 predetermined number of areas among said multiple recording
 20 areas.

6. An information recording control method as claimed in
 claim 4, wherein said update count is compared with said allowable
 number of times of recording when said allowable number of times
 of recording is set, when said update count is under said allowable
 25 number of times of recording, update of recording times to said

medium management information area is allowed, and when said update count is said allowable number of times of recording or larger, update of recording times to said medium management information area is not allowed for the erroneous completion of process, and if said allowable number of times of recording is not yet set, update of recording times to said medium management information area is also allowed.

7. An information recording control method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said medium management area is the secondary defect list (SDL) conforming to the DVD-RAM format.

8. An information recording control method for conducting recording and reproduction of information to an information recording medium which allows update of information, comprising the steps of:

recording information indicating an alternative area for the area including a defect to the medium management information area when said defect on said information recording medium is detected at the time of recording or reproducing information, and

controlling the recording and reproduction of information depending on the number of times of recording of information indicating said alternative area to said medium management information area.

9. An information recording control method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the allowable number of times of information

is previously recorded to said information recording medium,
and said method includes a step for controlling the recording
and reproduction of information by comparing said allowable
number of times of recording to the number of times of recording
5 to said medium management information area.

10. An information recording control method as claimed
in claim 9, wherein the information indicating the alternative
area is recorded to said medium management information area in
multiple to a plurality of areas, and said method also includes
the step for continuing the recording and reproduction of
information when the recorded information is read out normally
from two or more predetermined number of areas among a plurality
of said medium management information areas.

11. An information recording control method as claimed
in claim 10, wherein the recording and reproduction of information
are continued when the number of normal areas in said medium
management information area is the predetermined number or larger
even if the number of times of recording to said medium management
information area is said allowable number of times of recording
or larger.

12. An information recording control method as claimed
in claim 11, wherein said medium management information area
is the secondary defect list (SDL) conforming to the DVD-RAM
format.